# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:279
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2002
PROTECTION OF TAJ MAHAL
SURESH CHANDEL;VIRENDRA KUMAR

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

(a) the amount sanctioned to the Government of Uttar Pradesh under the Taj Protection Mission Scheme so far;

(b) the specific steps taken for the proper protection of Taj Mahal;

(c) whether any authority has been set up for the said scheme under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(d) if so, the details indicating the number of schemes implemented under the said Act for protection of Taj alongwith the extent to which these schemes have proved to be effective to check pollution; and

(e) the details of expenditure incurred on the said authority and each of the schemes during the last three years?

## Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. FOR REPLY ON 9.12.2002 RAISED BY SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR AND SHRI SURESH CHANDEL REGARDING PROTE OF TAJ MAHAL

The Union Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 124.59 crores so far to Government of Uttar Pradesh under the Taj Protection Mission Scheme. Central Government has constituted theTaj Trapezium Zone Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. For the proper protection of Taj Mahal, schemes have been sanctioned for improvement of water supply, drainage, sewerage, solid waste management, electricity supply, parking, construction of bye-pass and improvement of Master Plan roads, plantation and setting up ofambient air monitoring stations. As a result of the implementation of various schemes, the air quality of Agra City has improved. The annual average level of Sulphur Dioxide hascome down from 21(g/m3 in 1991 to 15(g/m3 in 2001, the Nitrogen Oxide level from 12 (g/m3 in1991 to 10 (g/m3 in 2001 and the SPM level has generally remained unchanged. As reported by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the total expenditure upto October, 2002 on various schemes is Rs. 259.20 crores, which includes the amount sanctioned by the Union Government.